

1/30/01

Re: Baytril (antibiotics)

0105 '01 FEB -7 A9:39

To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently completed construction on three new poultry houses. I am about to sell my first batch of birds. It has been a dream of mine for several years to become a poultry farmer. I am very appreciative for all the opportunities that I have been given. I know this job will be full of ups and downs, not unlike any other job. In the poultry industry we have many battles to face in South Mississippi. The uncertainty of the weather being a main factor. In the summer record high temperatures and this winter record low temperatures. However, I will do my best at all times to take care of my farm because I have much to lose if I do not give 100% to this new career that I have chosen.

In the past week I have been informed of some information that may not be very good news for myself and others in the poultry business. It has come to my attention that the FDA may be attempting to pull the antibiotic Baytril and other similar medicines off the market. To the best of my knowledge Baytril is one of the most effective antibiotics that remains available to treat sick birds.

I would greatly appreciate any effort made to work with the poultry industry in allowing Baytril and similar antibiotics available for treating sick birds. Without the help of the FDA and the Government the poultry industry will not be able to survive. Please reconsider this decision for the sake of myself and all of the others in the poultry business. Any support given in regards to this situation would be very helpful and very much appreciated. I would like to thank anyone who reads this letter for listening to what I feel is a very important matter.

Sincerely,

*Chris Merritt*

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